

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a node of a data communications network, connection handling functionality is distributed among plural processors of a processor cluster. Infrastructure data for the connection handling functionality is distributed among the plural processors of the processor cluster; resource handling data is partitioned among the plural processors of the processor cluster; and connection data is created on a selected processor of the processor cluster when an on demand connection is established at the selected processor. For network-wide connections, a predistributor of the node routes signaling messages incoming to the node to an appropriate processor of the processor cluster.